

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information input and output device for communicating information with an information recording unit of a card, comprising:

a card support unit including a card support surface for sliding the card while supporting the card from one surface side;

a card end unit including a card end surface provided to protrude from the card support surface; and

an input and output executing unit positioned to face the information recording unit of the card when the card is slid on the card support surface while abutting the card against the card end surface, and configured to execute at least one of reading of the information from the information recording unit and writing of the information to the information recording unit,

wherein the card support surface extends with the card end surface in a horizontal direction and has an area enough to arrange a plurality of cards and to slide a selected one of the plurality of cards while abutting the card against the card end surface, and the card end surface extends on both sides of the input and output executing unit ~~to allow~~ so that the card sliding on the card support surface is allowed to pass through the input and output executing unit.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The information input and output device according to claim 1, wherein the card end unit is positioned in a back portion of the card support surface, and the card end surface extends in a right-left direction from a viewpoint of a user who uses the information input and output device.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The information input and output device according to claim 1, wherein the card end surface exceeds an edge of the card support surface and extends toward a rear surface side of the card support surface in a portion of an intersection between the card support surface and the card end surface.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The information input and output device according to claim 1, wherein the card support surface has a translucent material, and the input and output executing unit is positioned to face the card information recording unit from a rear surface side of the card support unit.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The information input and output device according to claim 1, wherein the card support surface has a methacrylic resin.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information input and output device according to claim 1, wherein the card support surface has a methacrylic resin having an antistatic property of 0.1 seconds or less in a testing method specified in JIS L-1094.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The information input and output device according to claim 7, wherein an acrylic resin in the card support surface has a surface hardness corresponding to a pencil hardness equal to or higher than five H, the pencil hardness being specified in JIS D-0202.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A game machine having an information input and output device for communicating information with an information recording unit of a card provided at an operation panel unit, wherein the information input and output device comprises:

- a card support unit that includes a card support surface for sliding the card while supporting the card from one surface side;

- a card end unit that includes a card end surface provided to protrude from the card support surface; and

- an input and output executing unit that is arranged to face the information recording unit of the card when the card is slid on the card support surface while abutting the card against the card end surface, and that executes at least one of reading of the information from the information recording unit and writing of the information to the information recording unit,

wherein the card support surface extends with the card end surface in a horizontal direction and has an area enough to arrange a plurality of cards and to slide a selected one of the plurality of cards while abutting the card against the card end surface, and the card end surface extends on both sides of the input and output executing unit ~~to allow~~ so that the card sliding on the card support surface is allowed to pass through the input and output executing unit.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An information input and output device for communicating information with an information recording unit of a card, comprising:

a card support unit that includes a card support surface for sliding the card while supporting the card from one surface side, and

an input and output executing unit that executes at least one of reading of the information from the information recording unit of the card sliding across the card support surface and writing of the information to the information recording unit of the card sliding across the card support surface,

wherein the card support surface extends with the card end surface in a horizontal direction and has an area enough to arrange a plurality of cards and to slide a selected one of the plurality of cards while abutting the card against the card end surface, and the card support surface consists of a methacrylic resin having an antistatic property of 0.1 seconds or less in a testing method specified by JIS L-1094.

Claim 11 (Original): The information input and output device according to claim 10, wherein the acrylic resin that constitutes in the card support surface has a surface hardness corresponding to a pencil hardness equal to or higher than five H, pencil hardness being specified in JIS D-0202.